GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5665
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
COAL BED METHANE
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal Bed Methane has been found in coal bearing areas of Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the explorations have been undertaken by ONGC in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MI OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) The preliminary studies and Research and Development (R&D) activities have indicatedthe presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in West Bengal.

(b) & (c):- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)had taken up the exploration of CBM as R&D work and drilledtwo Wells in Durgapur depression of West Bengal. ONGC and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have jointly been awarded one block, namely North Raniganj ir West Bengal, on nomination basis for exploration and production of CBM. The Contract for this block has not been signed.